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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01234 191905Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
----------191937 114764 /53
P R 191415Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 792
INFO USCINCSO
PANCANAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: PANAMA 1087

1. APART FROM TORRIJOS' FEBRUARY 14 STATEMENTS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL WHICH WERE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA, PRESS PLAY AND COMMENTARY ON THE CURRENT TALKS HAS BEEN SPARSE IN COMPARISON WITH SOME PREVIOUS ROUNDS.

2. ESTRELLA AND STAR AND HERALD OF FEBRUARY 16 DID GIVE FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO NEGOTIATIONS, NOTING THAT THE FEBRUARY 15 SESSION WAS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO REQUIRE FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA'S PRESENCE ON CONTADORA. APART FROM CRITICA EDITORIAL WHICH REITERATED TORRIJOS' STATEMENTS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS, PRO-GOP ERSA PRESS WAS SILENT ON TOPIC OF NEGOTIATIONS. LOCAL PRESS OF FEBRUARY 17 ALL CARRIED BRIEF PROGRESS REPORTS STATING THAT U.S. NEGOTIATORS HAD PRESENTED A DOCUMENT DELIVERING U.S. POSITION DURING TUESDAY'S ROUND OF TALKS. FEBRUARY 18 PRESS AGAIN GAVE SPARSE PLAY TO NEGOTIATIONS, NOTING BRIEFLY THAT PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS HELD WORKING SESSION AT THE FOREIGN
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MINISTRY ON THURSDAY TO REVIEW THE AMERICAN POSITION. FEB 19 PRESS REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO GOP INFORMATION OFFICE SPOKESMAN, THIS NEGOTIATING ROUND WILL NOT PAUSE FOR CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 1975, THE NORMAL COURSE OF PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT-GUIDED PUBLIC RELATIONS TOWARD THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS HAS INCLUDED DRAMATIZING EVERY FAVORABLE

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DEVELOPMENT REPORTED FROM THE U.S., AND BUILDING ALMOST EVERY
ARRIVAL OF THE US NEGOTIATORS INTO A MAJOR EVENT OF SEPECIAL
SIGNIFICANCE. THIS IS CLEARLY NOT THE WAY THE GOP IS PLAYING
ITS PR THIS TIME. INSTEAD OF STRESSING OPTIMISM AND PROGRESS,
THE MEDIA APPEAR TO BE EMPHASIZING "REALISM" AND DETERMINATION
TO ADHERE STUBBORNLY TO STATED PANAMANIAN POSTIONS ON THE
TREATY.
JORDEN

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
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**Page Count:** 2
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**Retention:** 0
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**Subject:** TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
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**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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